

provided him enough time to gain control of the flame and further extinguish it. His attention to detail and situational awareness enabled him to recognize the difference between dust and smoke as the pit was being loaded with mortar and tank rounds. Sergeant Cremeans' quick reaction prevented the propellant from igniting, which would have caused the munitions to prematurely detonate, thereby saving the lives of the fifteen Afghan Nationals and four U.S. servicemen. Master Sergeant Cremeans' courage and concern for his fellow Soldiers and Afghan Nationals were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

NARRATIVE

On May 6, 2003, Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans was serving as the Senior Explosive Ordnance and Demolition (EOD) Technician to destroy the largest cache ever discovered in Afghanistan. The cache amounted to over 350,000 pounds worth of High Explosives. Over 4000 pounds worth of High Explosives was loaded into one of two demolition pits by fifteen Afghans with the close supervision of a fellow EOD technician. At this point, the floor of the pit was covered ankle deep with propellant from previous demolition shots. SFC Cremeans, 1LT Patton and 1LT Norsworthy were standing on top of the pit as the Afghans and one of the EOD technicians were loading the final mortar rounds into the pit. As he was watching the pit, a billow of smoke appeared at the bottom of the 20 foot deep pit. SFC Cremeans yelled, "Fire" and before 1LT Patton could yell burning, SFC Cremeans had dove into the pit yelling fire. As he was sliding down to the bottom of the pit a flame erupted and he slid into it causing his body to push enough dirt into the flame to momentarily smolder it. This act gave him enough time to put more dirt onto the flames and gather up loose propellant surrounding the site of ignition, thus allowing him to gain control of the situation. He immediately gathered up the white phosphorous residue that had been unearthed and the surrounding propellant and scooped them into a canister. He stayed there extinguishing the ambitious little flames until the threat was eliminated. All non essential personnel were loaded on the truck. He then calmly set the ring main and charges on the pit. He then finished by arming the M-60 fuse igniters on the ring main and was the last man to get into the revving truck. In summary, Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans' courageous selfless act and impeccable attention to detail saved the lives of fifteen Afghans and four United States Army servicemen. SFC Cremeans courageous selfless act richly deserves the award of the Soldiers Medal. Through his courageous selfless efforts and impeccable attention to detail, Sergeant First Class Brian L. Cremeans reflected great credit upon himself, the United States Army and the Department of Defense.

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1464, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007.

As an original cosponsor of this bill and co-chair of the International Conservation Cau-

cus, I would like to thank my fellow Caucus co-chair, Representative UDALL, for his leadership on this issue.

Endangered species such as lions, cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, and Ethiopian Wolves are not just remarkable creatures, but they play an important role in eco-tourism throughout Africa, bringing in much needed revenue to very poor countries.

Unfortunately, many of these endangered animals are losing their race for survival, as habitats become compromised and poachers decimate populations. This bill will be an important tool for reversing these trends.

Importantly, this bill provides assistance for programs to preserve and protect these remarkable animals. Multinational species funds, such as this one, have enjoyed tremendous success and have played a vital role in the protection of wildlife. On average, private donors have matched 3–1 every U.S. government dollar contributed to conservation programs.

In other words, when the United States leads in conservation, others follow. As the mission of the international Conservation Caucus states, the U.S. has the opportunity to advance the protection of the worldwide environment. This bill is true to that mission.

DYSTONIA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Dystonia Awareness Week, designated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for June 1–7, 2008.

Dystonia is a neurological disorder that creates painful, involuntary muscle spasms throughout the body. The public knows little about this disorder, afflicting as many as 1 million people in North America alone.

The causes of dystonia are still largely unknown within the medical community. The physical manifestations of dystonia can be debilitating and the lack of understanding among the general public often creates isolation and psychological distress to those who suffer from the disorder.

The Dystonia Association of Kentucky, Inc., was formed by patients, families, and friends to help one another and to seek a cure for their condition. Widespread public support for their efforts is essential.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in supporting the goals of Dystonia Awareness Week and urge all Americans to gain a deeper understanding of this disorder and those who are afflicted by it.

THE PUNGO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, 25 years ago, in the rural area of Virginia Beach, Virginia, known as Pungo, several locals decided

that the rest of the community should be aware of Pungo's delicious treasure: its strawberries. In 1983, locals began an annual festival, which at the time drew 2,500 people. In the years to follow, the festival's attendance grew to roughly 120,000 people each year. Today, the festival hosts many family-oriented activities, including a carnival, youth art show, and a multi-million dollar military display.

In 1985, it was deemed necessary to establish a festival board in order to accommodate the festival's growth as well as establish themselves as a nonprofit organization. To this end, the festival gives back to the community in the form of scholarships for students and makes contributions to other community-oriented programs.

To this date, the Pungo Strawberry Festival has donated over \$550,000 to the community. I want to take this moment to recognize the people behind this festival, some of whom have been involved since the beginning, and to inform my colleagues that this year the festival will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with, as always, an emphasis on the men and women serving in the military. The theme this year will be "Celebrating 25 years of Freedom, Family, and Fun." I support the community of Pungo in their efforts and look forward to attending the festival this year.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MARY C. POLILLI FOR BEING TUSCARAWAS COUNTY'S OLDEST VOTER

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mary C. Polilli is 102 years young; and

Whereas, she continues to make voting a priority; and

Whereas, Mary C. Polilli continues to be a positive influence on the lives of others and contributes to her state and country; and

Whereas, she strives to continue her good works of public service and inspire others to work for the many freedoms guaranteed by our democratic form of government; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Mary C. Polilli for her contributions to her community and country.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ANNE L. DAVIS, USA

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding military commander in the United States Army, Colonel Anne L. Davis.

As outgoing Commander of the Tooele Army Depot, TEAD, Utah, Colonel Davis has demonstrated exceptional meritorious service